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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/087,568	03/01/2002	Peter W. Walczak	1649/97A	5127

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EXAMINER

FUNK, STEPHEN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2854	

DATE MAILED: 03/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 10/087,568	Applicant(s) Walczak et al.
Examiner Stephen Funk	Art Unit 2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

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The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains the legal phraseology "said". Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

The decision by the Board of Appeals and Patent Interferences in Paper No. 18 of parent application Serial No. 08/844,350 has requested the examiner to ask, and the applicant to answer, how a conventional newspaper page is oriented about a plate cylinder. Applicant did not respond to the examiner's request in the parent application.

As stated in the Reasons for Allowance in the parent application the mere orientation of the width of the pages axially along the cylinder and the height of a page circumferentially about the cylinder is not considered to be novel or unobvious. In fact, it would appear to be the norm. Note column 3 lines 22 - 27 of Fadner ('320), column 1 lines 5 - 6 and column 2 lines 24 - 35 of Fukuda et al. ('830), column 1 lines 35 - 42 and column 2 lines 56 - 58 of Michalik et al., column 1 lines 8 - 13 of Schroder et al. ('290), column 1 lines 8 - 10 of Braun ('196), the sentence bridging columns 1 and 2 of McDonald et al. ('486), and the teachings of Smith ('992) below.

Applicant's recited length to diameter ratio of 5.8:1 to 9:1 equates to a printing page having a height to width ratio of 2.1:1 to 1.4:1. The above dimensions are computed by dividing the height of the page (circumference of cylinder = diameter "1" x 3.14 = 3.14) by the width of the page (width of page = length of cylinder ("5.8" or "9") /4 = 1.45 to 2.25). In effect, applicant is claiming a newspaper printing press capable of printing a page having the above height to width ratio wherein the plate cylinder has four plates across and one plate around. Converting

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to inches, to allow easier perception of the size of a newspaper page, applicant's disclosed range encompasses a newspaper page having a height between 18.5 and 25.6 inches and a width between 11.8 and 16.7 inches. The Washington Post, for example, has a page height of 21.25 inches and a width of 12.5 inches. This equates to a page height to width ratio of 1.7, well within the range of 1.4:1 to 2.1:1. Converting back to cylinder length to diameter ratio would result in a ratio of 7.4, well within the recited range of 5.8:1 to 9:1. It is well noted that these ratios fall almost exactly in the middle of the claimed range.

In fact, many well known newspapers fall within this range. If applicant believes otherwise, then evidence should be submitted that the above height to width ratio is not conventional. Likewise, applicant should submit evidence that it is not known to orient the height of a newspaper page circumferentially around the plate cylinder and the width of a newspaper page axially along the plate cylinder.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith (US 3,992,992) in view of Harenza (US 3,335,663) and Guaraldi et al. (US 5,241,905).

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Smith teaches the conventionality of a plate cylinder being four pages wide and having four plates across wherein each plate is the size of a page. See the sentence bridging columns 1 and 2, column 2 lines 11 - 17, and column 3 lines 39 - 56 of Smith. Note that the teaching in column 2 lines 11 - 17 of the plate cylinder carrying four axially adjacent printing plates implies only one plate around. More importantly note column 2 lines 52 - 56 which states that the baffles, arranged lengthwise along the plate cylinder (10), may be employed per each column width. Since columns of a newspaper extend across the page width it is apparent that the page must be oriented such that the width of the page extends across the length of the plate cylinder. The recited range of cylinder length to diameter ratio results in a conventionally sized newspaper page. Note the comments above.

If the teaching of Smith is not sufficient to establish only one plate around. Harenza teaches the conventionality of a plate cylinder having four plates across and one plate around. See column 1 lines 14 - 20, column 2 lines 34 - 38, and column 6 line 54 through column 7 line 4 of Harenza.

Guaraldi et al. teach the housing, sidewalls (22), first and second plate cylinders (14, 18) each having a plate lock-up mechanism (32, 40), and first and second blanket cylinders (16, 20) each having an axially removable continuous blanket (34, 36). See column 2 line 34 - column 4 line 13 and Figures 1 and 6 of Guaraldi et al, for example.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize the plate cylinder of Smith, as modified by Harenza, in the press of Guaraldi et al. to achieve the well known

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benefits of blanket sleeves such as reducing vibrations in the press, providing near continuous printing, and allowing the blankets to be easily replaced. With respect to claims 5 and 6 the recited dimensions would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art through routine experimentation. It would appear that these dimension would equate to an ordinary sized newspaper page.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of Harenza and Guaraldi et al. as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Grutzmacher et al. (US 5,481,971). Grutzmacher et al. teach the conventionality of each printing couple having a separate motor. See the Abstract and column 1 lines 15 - 49 of Grutzmacher et al. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the press of Smith, as modified by Harenza and Guaraldi et al., with separate printing couple motors in view of Grutzmacher et al. to reduce the vibrations in the press. With respect to claim 4 see column 1 lines 55 - 59 of Harenza.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of Harenza and Guaraldi et al. as applied to claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 11 above, and further in view of Okamura et al. (US 5,152,222). Okamura et al. teach the conventionality of four printing units mounted vertically. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the press of Smith, as modified by Harenza and Guaraldi et al., with four printing units mounted vertically in view of Okamura et al. to achieve a more compact design.

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Claims 8 - 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of Harenza, Guaraldi et al., and Okamura et al. as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Andersson et al. (US 5,528,987). Andersson et al. teach the conventionality of a fifth printing unit. See column 1 lines 63 - 67 of Andersson et al. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the press of Smith, as modified by Harenza, Guaraldi et al., and Okamura et al., with a fifth printing unit in view of Andersson et al. so as to print another color on the web. With respect to claims 9 and 10 no structure is recited to distinguish from Andersson et al. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize the fifth printing unit for printing any additional or same color, spot color, or even lacquer.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of Harenza and Guaraldi et al. as applied to claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 11 above, and further in view of applicant's admission of prior art. Applicant discloses on page 4 lines 17 - 20 that the pinless folding apparatus is known. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the press of Smith, as modified by Harenza and Guaraldi et al., with a known pinless folding apparatus as disclosed by applicant so as to fold the printed web.

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

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A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1 - 12 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 - 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,374,731. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the overlap in the recited ranges render the claims obvious.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

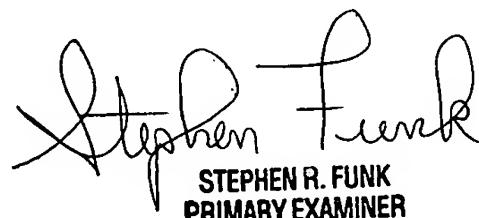
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Funk at telephone number (703) 308-0982. The examiner can normally be reached Monday - Friday, except Wednesdays, from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Hirshfeld, can be reached at (703) 305-6619.

The fax number for *official* papers is (703) 308-7722, 7724. The fax number for those wishing an auto-reply verifying receipt of *official* papers is (703) 872-9318 or for After-Final actions is (703) 872-9319. Upon consulting with the examiner *unofficial* papers only may be faxed directly to the examiner.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist at telephone number (703) 308-0956.

Stephen Funk
February 28, 2003


STEPHEN R. FUNK
PRIMARY EXAMINER